upon receiving the error message at the client, automatically repeating the sending of the request to a next server of the list until the error message is not received.

6. (Amended)   A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor of a client to perform a method comprising:

sending a request to a server of a list of servers;

receiving a response to the request from the server; and

upon determining that the response comprises an error message that the server is off-line, as used by the server when the server is inappropriate to fulfill the request, automatically repeating the sending of the request to a next server of the list until the error message is not received.

11. (Amended)   A computerized system comprising:

a plurality of servers, each server designed to send an error message that the server is off-line in response to receiving a request the server is unable to fulfill locally and received from a client of a predetermined type; and

a client of the predetermined type and designed to automatically repeat the sending of a request to a different one of the plurality of servers until the error message is not received in response.

16. (Amended)   A client computer comprising:

a communications device; and,

a computer program designed to automatically repeat sending a request to a different server of a list of servers via the communications device until an error message indicating a server receiving the request is off-line is not received.

18. (Amended)   A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor to transform a general purpose computer to a special purpose computer comprising:

a communications device; and

means for automatically repeating the sending of a request to a different server of a list of servers via the communications device until an error message that the server is off-time as used by the server when the server is inappropriate to fulfill the request is not received in response.

19. (Amended)   A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor of a server to perform a method comprising:

receiving a request from a client;

determining whether the server is inappropriate to fulfill the request;

determining whether the client is of a predetermined type; and,

upon determining that the server is inappropriate to fulfill the request and that the client is a non-delegable client that does not understand a delegation of the request to another server, sending an error message to the client that the server is off-line.

22. (Amended)   A server computer comprising:

a communications device; and,

a computer program designed to send via the communications device an error message that a server computer is off-line in response to a request from a non-delegable client that does not understand a delegation of the request to another server when the server computer is inappropriate to fulfill the request.

26. (Amended)   A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor to transform a general purpose computer to a special purpose computer comprising:

a communications device; and,

means for sending via the communications device an error message that a computer is off-line in response to a request from a non-delegable client that does not understand